

EDUCATION DEPARTMENT[281]

Adopted and Filed

Pursuant to the authority of Iowa Code section 256.7(5), the State Board of Education hereby amends Chapter 32, "High School Equivalency Diploma," Iowa Administrative Code.

This chapter provides standards and procedures for proper management and administration of a high school equivalency test. Changes in the single-source provider required changes in the administration of testing procedures. These amendments are designed to bring the rules in Chapter 32 into alignment with Iowa Code chapter 259A.

An agencywide waiver provision is provided in 281—Chapter 4.

Notice of Intended Action was published in the December 12, 2012, Iowa Administrative Bulletin as **ARC 0510C**. Public comments were allowed until 4:30 p.m. on January 4, 2013. A public hearing was held on that date; no person attended. One written comment was received, which addressed problems with the underlying law on which rule 281—32.8(259A) is based, as opposed to the rule itself.

Nonsubstantive changes to improve clarity were made to the amendments in Items 1 and 3.

After analysis and review of this rule making, no impact on jobs has been found.

These amendments are intended to implement Iowa Code chapter 259A.

These amendments shall become effective on May 22, 2013.

The following amendments are adopted.

ITEM 1. Amend rule 281—32.1(259A) as follows:

281—32.1(259A) Test. ~~Applicants for The Iowa high school equivalency diplomas~~ diploma shall satisfactorily complete the General Educational Development Tests published by the General Educational Development Testing Service of the American Council on Education, One Dupont Circle, Washington, D.C. 20036. indicate the holder thereof has achieved the equivalent of a high school education as measured by scores obtained on the test(s) approved by the Iowa department of education to measure high school completion.

This rule is intended to implement Iowa Code section 259A.1.

ITEM 2. Amend rule 281—32.2(259A) as follows:

281—32.2(259A) By whom administered. ~~The General Educational Development Tests~~ tests shall be administered in official testing centers authorized by the ~~General Educational Development Testing Service, other agencies for whom scores are reported by the General Educational Development Testing Service, Defense Activities for Non-Traditional Education Support (DANTES), and other institutions and agencies upon special authorization of the Commission on Educational Credit and Credentials.~~ Iowa department of education. Official testing centers shall be established with an accredited and approved institution.

This rule is intended to implement Iowa Code section 259A.2.

ITEM 3. Amend rule 281—32.3(259A) as follows:

281—32.3(259A) Minimum score. ~~Applicants shall make a minimum standard score of 410 on each test and an average standard score of 450 on all five of the General Educational Development Tests. must achieve the appropriate minimum standard scores as established by the Iowa department of education and in effect at the time the applicant tested.~~

ITEM 4. Amend rule 281—32.4(259A) as follows:

281—32.4(259A) Date of test. Effectiveness of test scores. ~~Test results dated prior to the date of application will be acceptable provided the tests were taken at an authorized center as specified in rule 32.2(259A). Test scores shall remain valid for a period of five years from the date of the first test. If the~~

applicant has not received the Iowa high school equivalency diploma by then, the applicant must retake the expired test(s). The only exception is for test series expiring prior to the five years, in which case all prior tests are void.

This rule is intended to implement Iowa Code section 259A.1.

ITEM 5. Amend rule 281—32.5(259A) as follows:

281—32.5(259A) Retest. Any applicant not achieving the minimum standard test scores as defined in rule 281—32.3(259A), upon payment of a \$40 fee to cover only the testing costs, shall be permitted to make application for retest and scoring of the retest, provided that one of the following conditions is met:

32.5(1) A period of ~~six~~ three months from the date of original testing has elapsed.

32.5(2) Applicant shall complete instruction in an adult education program, in the area or areas to be retested. This instruction shall be certified by an official of the adult education program to the ~~chief or alternate examiner administering the retest(s)~~ test administrator (state or local) authorized to release the retest earlier than three months.

This rule is intended to implement Iowa Code sections 259A.2 and 259A.5.

ITEM 6. Amend rule 281—32.6(259A) as follows:

281—32.6(259A) Application fee. The applicant or supporting agency shall pay an application fee of ~~\$25~~ to cover only actual testing costs. ~~This fee shall be paid to the official Iowa General Educational Development Testing Agency and shall allow for initial testing and scoring of the initial testing of the eligible candidate with the five General Educational Development Tests.~~

This rule is intended to implement Iowa Code sections 259A.2 and 259A.5.

ITEM 7. Adopt the following new rule 281—32.8(259A):

281—32.8(259A) Admission to testing. No one under 16 years of age is allowed to test. Testing of 16-year-olds is restricted to these conditions: (a) resident of an Iowa juvenile institution; or (b) under the supervision of a probation office. To take the high school equivalency test, anyone 17 years of age or older who is not enrolled in a secondary school or who is not a high school graduate may be admitted to testing. The only requirements for admission for testing are proof of age and, for an applicant 17 or 18 years of age, consent of the applicant's parent or guardian and verification of nonenrolled status. The applicant cannot receive a diploma until the applicant has reached 18 years of age and the applicant's class from ninth grade has graduated.

This rule is intended to implement Iowa Code section 259A.2.

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EDITOR'S NOTE: For replacement pages for IAC, see IAC Supplement 4/17/13.